

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for creating a form including a plurality of layout items that define the presentation of data, said method comprising:

displaying simultaneously a logic view, a property view, and a form layout view,

the logic view including nodes representing the layout items and display

labels, associated with the nodes, indicating structure information of

the form, the position of the nodes defining a processing order of

the layout items,

the property view displaying properties of the layout items, and

the form layout view displaying a preview of the layout items in their

positions in the form

wherein each of the layout items contains a summary of information

to be entered into the layout item, and

wherein the summary of information for each of the layout items in

the preview contains wording different from wording used in

the form sent to an output device;

selecting a layout item in one of the logic, property, and form layout views;

continuously displaying and continuously highlighting the layout item as selected in one of the views other than the view in which the layout item was selected for the entire time that the layout item is selected;

modifying the selected layout item in one of the views; and

creating a form definition document based on the modified selected layout item.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

reflecting the modifications to the selected layout item in one of the views in which the modification was not made.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein modifying the selected layout item comprises:

modifying the position of a layout item in the logic view, thereby changing the processing order.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the logic view comprises a tree view, and wherein the nodes are tree nodes.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the tree nodes include condition nodes to process layout items according to logical statements.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein modifying the selected layout item comprises:

verifying the compatibility of the layout items and the processing order with a predefined data interface of a business application.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein creating a form definition document based on the modified selected layout items comprises:

generating a form-printing program; and

calling the form-printing program by a business application to print a final document based on the form definition document; and

obtaining information from one or more databases to be entered into one or more of the layout items after calling the form-printing program.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein selecting a layout item in one of the logic, property and form layout views further comprises:

highlighting the selected layout item in at least one additional view.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for defining the format of a form having a plurality of layout items defining the presentation of data of a business application, said system comprising:

a display for simultaneously providing a logic view, a property view, and a form layout view,

the logic view including nodes representing the layout items and display

labels, associated with the nodes, indicating structure information of the form, the position of the nodes defining a processing order of the layout items,

the property view displaying properties of the layout items, and

the form layout view displaying a preview of the layout items as the layout items in their positions in the form

wherein each of the layout items contains a summary of information
to be entered into the layout item, and
wherein the summary of information for each of the layout items in
the preview contains wording different from wording used in
the form sent to an output device;

interaction means for receiving an input from a user selecting a layout item in one of the logic, property, and form layout views and modifying the selected layout item;

display means for continuously displaying and continuously highlighting the layout item as selected in one of the views other than the view in which the layout item was selected for the entire time that the layout item is selected; and

storing means for creating a form definition document from the modified layout item.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, further comprising
verification means to verify the compatibility of the layout items and the processing order with a predefined data interface of the business application.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having computer program code instructions for creating a form including a plurality of layout items that define the presentation of data, the computer program instructions causing a processor to execute the following steps:

displaying simultaneously a logic view, a property view, and a form layout view,

the logic view including nodes representing the layout items and display

labels, associated with the nodes, indicating structure information of

the form, the position of the nodes defining a processing order of
the layout items,
the property view displaying properties of the layout items, and
the form layout view displaying a preview of the layout items as the layout
items will appear in the form,
wherein each of the layout items contains a summary of information
to be entered into the layout item, and
wherein the summary of information for each of the layout items in
the preview contains wording different from wording used in
the form sent to an output device;
showing a layout item as selected in one of the logic, property, and form layout
views in which the item was selected;
continuously displaying and continuously highlighting the layout item as selected
in one of the views other than the view in which the layout item was selected for the
entire time that the layout item is selected;
modifying a selected layout item and the processing order through interaction
with a user; and
creating a form definition document from the modified layout item.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26,
wherein the computer program code instructions cause the processor to provide the
logic view as a tree view showing the processing order, the tree view including a root
node, a plurality of branch nodes, and a plurality of leaf nodes.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the computer program code instructions cause the processor to provide the logic view showing a branch node as a condition node to process the layout items based on logical statements.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the computer program code instructions cause the processor to execute the step of
modifying the processing order through user interaction to change a position of tree nodes.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the computer program code instructions cause the processor to verify a compatibility of the layout items and the processing order with a predefined data interface of the business application.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the nodes are shaped according to their function.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the tree nodes are shaped according to their function.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the nodes are shaped according to their function.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the nodes are shaped according to their function.

35. (New) The method of claim 16, further including obtaining information from one or more databases to be entered into one or more of the layout items after calling a print driver.